

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

"TO CARE FOR HIM WHO HAS BORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS."—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Tribune.

"THE VALIDITY OF THE PUBLIC DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES, AUTHORIZED BY LAW, INCLUDING DEBTS INCURRED FOR PAYMENT OF PENSIONS AND BOUNTIES FOR SERVICES IN SUPPRESSING INSURRECTION OR REBELLION, SHALL NOT BE QUESTIONED."—SEC. 4, ART. XIV. CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

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Please Report.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE wishes full and early reports of army Reunions, Grand Army, and other meetings of general interest to soldiers, for publication, and asks that some of our friends will please be kind enough to see that they are sent to us at the earliest possible moment.

We are pleased to know that THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is appreciated, but think that our exchanges, in making use of them, should give us credit for our original articles.

Commissioner of Pensions Dudley has in course of preparation a new set of rules and regulations for the government of his office, which will be ready for promulgation by October 1st. Orders 164 and 292 issued by the late Mr. Bentley will be revoked, and claimants and attorneys will be put upon the footing before the Department of principal and agent. Pensioners and claimants will have good cause for congratulation on the changes to be made, and will find that Colonel Dudley is in truth the soldiers' friend.

The Government of the United States is rich enough to pay a pension to every soldier and sailor who served during the war of the rebellion and yet survives. The passage of a law containing such a provision is simply a question of policy and not one of ability to meet the obligations which it would impose upon the financial resources of the country.

The idea has already been broached in Congress, and we see that the papers are beginning to devote some attention to the subject. At the proper time THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will give its views in relation to the matter, which is one requiring, for various reasons, deep thought and careful consideration.

Colonel Dudley has in course of preparation a table of cases pending in his office, showing fully the condition of each claim; that is, the claims in which no official action, beyond the filing, has been had; those in which requirements have been sent out; in which evidence has been filed, &c., &c. He will thus be enabled to fix the responsibility for such delays as may have been occasioned, and, so far as possible, assist in remedying the evils resulting therefrom.

General W. T. Sherman is thus reported in a New York paper:

When asked about the attempt to kill Guitau he said that the law would have to take its course in Sergeant John Mason's case the same as if he had fired on any unoffending citizen. He stated that if, as some of the papers have claimed, there has been talk among the soldiers detailed to guard Guitau in regard to shooting him, the guilty ones would be arraigned before a court-martial. The fact that the attempted shooting was done by an officer of the army, made the crime inexcusable and worthy of the severest punishment.

This is the voice of a great soldier who never sustained violation of law for any purpose.

ALL business communications relating to our paper should be addressed to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

Those having reference to the Editorial Department only should be addressed to the Editor.

We take pleasure in stating that a copy of the fine steel engraving of Colonel Dudley, promised to our subscribers, has been mailed to each one who has made a request to that effect.

The Nation's Creditors.

The creditors of the United States may be divided into two classes, viz: 1. Those who hold the promises to pay, or bonds, of the Government. 2. Those who, by their services in the army and navy during the late war, maintained the integrity of the Union, and thus guaranteed the public credit.

The first class have been, are being, and should be paid whatever was or is due them, and strictly according to the letter and meaning of the obligations they held or yet hold. When they have all been thus paid, principal and interest, the Government will be discharged from all claims in the premises.

As regards the second class, however, the case is different. Neither the Government nor the American people can ever fully discharge the debt they owe to the soldiers and sailors who preserved the one, and secured to the others the blessings to be derived from a Union founded upon the principles of perfect freedom and even-handed justice to all men. Money can never fully discharge the obligation, nor can gratitude extinguish it, however much it may be appreciated by those upon whom it is lavished. But money can discharge one portion of the debt—that is, so much of it as depends upon any contract, expressed or implied, entered into by and between the Government and its defenders—and, such being the case, there should be no backwardness on the part of those who have control of the public purse, nor on the part of the people who contribute to the National support, in seeing to it that the funds necessary to the discharge of such obligations are forthcoming. The soldiers and sailors should be paid whatever may be their due, just as promptly, (and even more willingly, if anything,) as are, and ought to be, the holders of the bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of the United States. If the laws are found insufficient to warrant such payments, (as in the case of bounties, for instance,) then the laws should be amended at once, so that the proper relief may be extended. And, referring to the question of pensions: while the existing provisions are, in the main, liberal, yet there are large classes of cases where injustice is being done, notably those falling within the operations of what is known as the "Arrears Act." Thousands of unjust ratings were made under the arbitrary rulings of the late Commissioner, Mr. Bentley, and which, without further legislation, are likely to remain as monuments of his disregard of the commonest principles of equity. Again, as regards those who for months languished in southern prisons, and there contracted diseases which, however, were not manifested, it may be, until after discharge from the service; legislation is necessary to enable many of them to obtain the pensions that every one who knows anything of their cases is satisfied they ought to have. And a law is required, conferring upon the Commissioner of Pensions or upon some tribunal established under his supervision, or as an adjunct to his Department, the powers of a court of equity, so that whenever a meritorious case arises the applicant may not have to appeal to Congress for that relief which the strict letter of the statute denies him. And, as we have already intimated, these laws should be enacted as expeditiously, and, when enacted, carried out as faithfully and promptly as are the laws providing for the payment of the public bonded debt, or any part thereof, or of the interest thereon.

The Government and the people owe it to themselves to see to it, that in settling with the Nation's creditors no distinction be made between those who furnished the money for carrying on the war and those who furnished the bone, sinews, blood and muscles by which it was brought to a successful ending.

Respect the Law.

Sergeant Mason, of battery B, Second Artillery, when relieving the guard at the jail here on the afternoon of the 11th inst., shot at Guitau through the window of his cell and came near killing him. The ball grazed his head, and was imbedded in the cell wall. Mason was promptly arrested, and taken to the Arsenal and incarcerated. The affair is to be regretted, however much the people may desire to see Guitau punished for his dastardly attempt upon the President's life.

It should be remembered that the Government of the United States rests upon a foundation of law, and that it is contrary to the genius of our institutions to punish one crime by committing another.

If a human being, no matter how depraved he may be, can be shot down or shot at with impunity while in the custody of the law, simply because he attempted to kill the President, it will not be long before every murderer or would-be assassin will be treated in the same manner, and courts and juries be altogether ignored.

Guitau must and shall be punished. The American people will have it so; and we most earnestly desire to see full justice meted out to him; but for the honor of our good name among the Nations of the earth, and for the sake of our own self-respect as citizens, let us see to it that he is tried, condemned, and punished under the law.

Do Not Delay.

We again impress upon our patrons who wish to continue their subscriptions to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE the importance of sending on the additional amount of one dollar before the 20th of October.

The Gentle Savage.

Colonel H. B. Carrington recently read a paper before the Boston meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Science, his subject being the Dakota tribes of Indians. The theme furnished a fine field for rhetorical display, and enabled the colonel to exhibit his knowledge of Indian character, air his philanthropic views, indulge in mawkish sentimentalities, and tell what he would have done, under certain circumstances, had he been a noble red man.

During the course of his address he took occasion to refer to the Fort Phil Kearney massacre—a subject, by the way, which for the sake of his own reputation as a military man he should have avoided.

Hear what he says of the manner in which the innocent savages amused themselves, almost under his own eyes, after having slain the gallant Fetterman and his nearly one hundred men:

"I found that nearly every body was stripped of the muscles of the arm, breast, back, thigh and calves of the legs. The bodies were filled with arrows, one hundred and sixty-eight having been found in three bodies. I quote from the official report as to these mutilations: 'Eyes torn out and laid on the rocks; teeth chopped out; joints of fingers cut off; brains taken out and placed on rocks, with members of the body; entrails taken out and exposed; hands and feet cut off; arms taken from sockets; eyes, ears, mouth and arms penetrated with spearheads, sticks, and arrows; punctures upon every sensitive part of the body, even to the soles of the feet and the palms of the hands.'"

Now listen to his closing words:

"In the horrors of that calamity, when loved companions fell so suddenly, after safely passing the ordeal of four years of war, and it seemed as if there was no salvation for the rest of the small force in Dakota, and when our wives and children were in peril, so that no one knew what the next hour would bring of toil or trial, I could not but feel that, if I had been a red man, I would have fought as bitterly, if not as cruelly, for my rights and my home, as the red man fought."

The italics are ours. Thus, after the lapse of fifteen years, he whom we believe to be chiefly responsible for the fearful massacre above referred to, reopens the subject which, at the time, caused no little comment in as well as outside of army circles; and in resurrecting the dead past he has called to our mind some incidents which transpired not long prior to the time of which he speaks.

The writer crossed the plains in 1866, following what is known as the Powder River route and the Bridger Cut-off. Fort Phil Kearney was just then being established on a fork of Powder River, some distance west of Fort Reno, and Colonel H. B. Carrington was in command of the new post. He had, we should judge, 500 or 600 soldiers and some ten or twelve cannon, together with an abundance of provisions and ammunition. The stockade of the fort was in process of erection, the site being well selected, and with the force located there the Colonel should have had no difficulty either in defending himself or in protecting those whose duties took them outside of camp.

It is true that Red Cloud, Spotted Tail, and other noted chiefs, with their braves, were on the war-path, stealing stock and murdering people whenever opportunity offered, but we had met then with less than sixty men (all civilians) and fought our way from the crossing of the Niobrara, at a point nearly due north from Fort Laramie, to Phil Kearney, a distance of several hundred miles, without loss. We had passed through the Bad Lands and the Black Hills in safety, although set upon almost every day by from twice to three times our numbers, and yet upon arriving in the vicinity of the Fort found that it, instead of being a place of refuge, as ought to have been the case, was the point of greatest danger. Numerous murders had been committed by the Indians almost under the shadow of its walls. Government stock feeding within less than a half mile of the stockade had been run off by the savages in broad daylight and within full sight of the garrison, and, worst of all, no effort had been or was made, so far as we could learn, to punish the murderers or capture the thieves. A conversation with Colonel Carrington showed that he was in a state of the greatest trepidation—demoralization we used to call it in war time—and virtually besieged by his red brethren. So fearful was he of bringing on a general engagement (or it may have been on account of his tender regard for the "dear Indian") that he was wont to send out mounted pickets, as we learned from more than one of them, from one to three miles from camp armed with a muzzle-loading Springfield rifle and but three cartridges. The men were not even permitted to load their weapons, as we were informed, except in case of attack. The Colonel evidently feared that if Spencer carbines, of which he had plenty, were to be furnished those sent upon such duty, together with an ample supply of ammunition, and they should by chance be set upon by the savages, several valuable lives from among the latter might possibly be sacrificed before the scalps of the pale-face warriors could be secured.

We found but one opinion among the officers and men under Colonel Carrington's command, and that was far from being favorable to his pretensions as a commander or fitness for the post he occupied. We heard him called a "petticoat" officer by more than one of those under him when speaking of his administration of affairs, and our own observation tended to confirm the current opinion. Personally we were pleased with him, and his wife we found a most

estimable lady; but in the line of his chosen profession we agreed with what seemed to be the unanimous verdict: neither Colonel Carrington nor his excellent spouse was fitted for command in the Indian country; but of the two the woman was evidently the better man.

From Fort Phil Kearney until the Yellowstone River was reached, we were almost continually harassed by the Indians; but a bold and decided front, coupled with the greatest vigilance, carried us safely through to our journey's end. The same policy on the part of Colonel Carrington might have saved the lives of Lieutenant-Colonel Fetterman and his devoted men, whose slaughter later on brought to our mind almost the last words we heard that lamented officer utter: "This policy will be the death of some of us yet." And it was. The massacre of Fort Phil Kearney was but one of the legitimate results of the Carringtonian method of dealing with savages—of that method which presumes an Indian to be an angel of perfection, of whom it may be said, as of the King, "he can do no wrong." And how much longer is that policy to prevail? Will the time ever come when the management of Indian affairs will be deputed to the War Department, where it properly belongs? It is surely time that a trial at least be made with a view to ascertaining whether the military head is not clearer, the military arm stronger, than the heads and arms of those who can find no language expressive enough with which to praise the noble red men, nor severe enough for the condemnation of those who believe in treating savages as such, and not as representatives of the highest attainable state of civilization.

A Modern Peter Klaus.

If Bourbonism is possessed of any one prominent feature by means of which it may be distinguished from all other political isms, it is to be found in the extreme and long since exploded doctrine of the right of secession to which the chief figure of the Lost Cause, Mr. Davis, yet clings with a tenacity which has scarcely a parallel in history. Like the German prototype of our American Kip Van Winkle upon first being aroused from his slumber of twenty years, the bogus president who sought to establish his authority in one part of the United States, is apparently unable to realize the lapse of time and the changes wrought by the irresistible force of passing events. He undertook to climb the mountain of Disunion with the living body of his cherished belief in his arms, drank at the fountain of armed Rebellion by the way, and, finally overcome by the lethargy of defeat, sank to rest with a corpse upon his bosom.

He has recently awakened, but does not seem able to comprehend that his eyes behold a new creation;—that a new generation has sprung into being—and that not only the cause for which he risked everything, but its very soul, is dead. Today he appears before the Nation affectionately clasping to his heart a skeleton, which, in his state of senility, he believes to be the perfect embodiment of an existing, youthful, vigorous factor in politics.

His book, not long since published, is the reflex of his mind. But the doctrine, which is its life, perished when the rebellious hosts laid down their arms, and no effort on his part, no effort on the part of any one can ever rehabilitate it in the minds of the people as a living issue. State Rights, which was to Mr. Davis a dream of empire, is no longer viewed, even by the majority of those who at one time believed in the theory, as having the force which he and others of his way of thinking would accord to it. Some minds are still pleasurable excited by visions of broad domains over which the extreme doctrine shall yet rule with despotic authority, but they are comparatively few in number. The great mass of our citizens, north, south, east, and west, are ready to accept, in fact have long since submitted to, the logic of the war. And it would be better for his reputation as a statesman, if Mr. Davis, even at this late day, would but follow in the footsteps of his former adherents who have proved their superior wisdom by accepting things as they are and must be—not as they would have them. There is little hope, however, of his thus distinguishing himself; but yet it is not too late for others, who have drawn their inspiration from his extreme teaching, to reform.

Let them remember that he is repudiated by the great party of which, years ago, he was one of the recognized leaders, and take warning, lest they, too, if they have political aspirations, be cast aside for others who are able to realize that the spirit of progression is abroad in the land,—that the minds of the people have been enlightened within the last decade or two, and conformed to the advanced state of ideas, and that no dead and buried theories, even though successfully resurrected, are suited to the popular taste. The sooner Mr. Davis and his little following learn these truths, and hide from sight the crumbling remains of their dead love, the sooner they will be prepared to contribute to the public welfare, and aid in establishing an era of good fellowship and reciprocity of feeling between the sections North and South that shall continue so long as the Nation itself endures.

THOSE who have not the means to subscribe for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE should remember that any person sending us ten subscribers with \$12.50, will be entitled to a copy of our paper for one year free of charge. The names need not all be sent at one time. When the number is complete the extra copy will be sent to the getter-up of the club.

WHY NOT SEND HIM TO YORKTOWN?

Mr. John P. Clevinger, of Smithburg, Monmouth county, New Jersey, is said to be the last survivor of the crew of the United States Frigate Brandywine, which bore General Lafayette home to France after his last visit to this country.

Mr. Clevinger, who served nine years in a man-of-war, was captain of the side, and hoisted the General on board in an arm-chair, and hoisted him out of the vessel at Havre at the time of disembarkation.

He is now in poor circumstances, and we suggest that the committee of arrangements take steps to enable him to be present at the Centennial celebration at Yorktown next month. It would do the old man's heart good; and, besides, it might be pleasant to others to converse with one who saw the noble Frenchman, some of whose descendants are expected to add interest to the occasion by their presence.

By the by, according to our informant, the Clevingers come of loyal and patriotic stock.

The grandfather of the one above mentioned served in the Revolutionary war, and was wounded at the battle of Monmouth; the father served during the war of 1812, and the son served over three years in the Union army during the late rebellion. Four generations, in a direct line, dedicated to the cause of their country.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

We have received from T. B. Peterson and Brothers, the well-known publishers, "The Bridal Eve; or, Rose Elmer," by Mrs. Emma D. E. N. Southworth. To the novel-reader public the name of the author is a guarantee that the work is thoroughly readable; for no writer has so wide and well established a reputation, in the realm of fiction, as she. "Ishmael," "Self raised," "The Missing Bride," "The Hidden Hand," "The Bride of an Evening," "India," "The Lost Heiress," and scores of other works from her pen, have been eagerly sought for and eagerly read and re-read in years past, and the publication of "The Bridal Eve," in its present form, shows that the demand still continues. The story is well conceived, the plot interesting, and the characters all strongly and at the same time finely drawn. The scenes are laid in England, and the chief actors are members of the English aristocracy, several of the characters belonging to the British nobility.

The story is published in a large square duodecimo volume, paper cover, price 75 cents, and will be found for sale by all booksellers and news agents, or copies of it will be sent to any one, to any place, at once, on remitting that amount to the publishers, T. B. Peterson and Brothers, Philadelphia, Pa.

We also acknowledge the receipt from the same publishers of "The History of a Parisienne," (*Histoire d'une Parisienne*). Being the story of a Parisian woman of fashion. By Octave Feuillet. Translated from the French by Charles Ripley. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Publishers, Philadelphia, Pa.

In the "History of a Parisienne," Octave Feuillet makes a novel out of the materials which he finds in the upper circles of aristocratic society in France. His aim is to show how an accomplished, beautiful and amiable girl, may be transformed, by being wedded to a worthless, cynical and depraved husband, into a kind of a moral monster, capable of anything and believing in nothing. He lays the blame of the ruin of many married women to the carelessness or perversity of their mothers in accepting husbands for them who are not suited to win their hearts or to understand their souls.

We advise all who wish to read an intensely interesting book, to procure this at once.

"The History of a Parisienne" is published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, in a square 12mo. volume, paper cover, price 50 cents, in uniform style with "The Count de Camors," "Bellah," "The Little Countess," and "The Amours of Philippe," by Octave Feuillet, and with the works of "Henry Greville," and "Emile Zola," issued by us, and is for sale by all Booksellers and News Agents, and on all Railroad Trains, or copies will be sent to any one, post-paid on remitting 50 cents in a letter to the publishers, T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia, Pa.

DEMAREST'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

This sterling magazine comes to us fairly teeming with good things. Over Land and Sea, by James Grant, the story with which it starts out, is well worth perusal, and so are Russell's Drawing, the Fragment of a Photograph, and numerous other short sketches with which its pages are enlivened. The poem, a Murdered Woman, by Ella Wheeler, is one of the best things, even among so many that are good. Prunes and Prisms is concluded, while Kith and Kin is continued from the August number.

On the whole, the varied reading matter, the illustrations, fashion notes and plates make up a summary rarely to be found included in one magazine, and which must necessarily commend it to everyone who but glances at its contents.

THE VON LAER PERFECT BINDER.

We call especial attention to the advertisement upon our eighth page of the Von Laer Binder for books, magazines, and newspapers, and of which Mr. E. L. Lambie, of this city, is sole manufacturer and agent. It is the most perfect binder ever invented. We have four of them in use in our office, and can cheerfully recommend them to all who desire to preserve THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, both for effectiveness, simplicity, durability, and cheapness. They are made of whatever size is required, and fifty-two numbers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE can be accommodated in a single volume, to be handled as easily as any book.

A harsh word affects the human heart as a grain of sand or other foreign substance does the eye. In the latter instance we may remove the cause of the irritation, but yet for a long time the eye retains the feeling as of something in it.

And if we speak harshly, although we may immediately apologize, and so far as possible take back our words, yet so sensitive is the heart in which they find lodgment that their effects remain long afterwards to rankle and burn, causing oftentimes sore distress as well as incalculable injury.

Send in your subscriptions for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.